

The Vincent Melzac Collection

This central concourse...

... outstanding examples of the work of artists known collectively as the Wash Color School. These paintings have been made available on loan through the generosity of Mr. Melzac, a noted collector of modern art and an early champion of the innovative work done by these artists.

Washington color painting is closely related to the school of abstract expressionism which emerged in NY during the 1950's.

Jackson Pollock, Helen Frankenthaler and Willem de Kooning were leading figures in this movement. Their large canvases, with bold color areas applied in unconventional ways, stimulated Washington artists like

Morris Louis, Howard Mehring, Thomas Downing and Alma Thomas, all of whom are represented in the collection on display here. The Louis canvases, located in ..., are particularly valuable and regrettably we had to encase them in plexiglass to protect them from accidental damage. Other works from the Melzac collection can be seen on display at the Natl. Gallery... etc.

For his generous support to CIA over a period of many yrs. Mr. Melzac was awarded the Agency Seal Medallion by DCI Casey in Dec. 1982.